

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A bumper ~~structure~~ ~~useful~~ for attachment to the a front of a vehicle, comprising:

an elongated bumper beam, said bumper beam having a front face with top and bottom longitudinal edges and ~~provided with~~ at least one rearwardly depressed portion including a top edge depressed portion extending rearwardly from the top longitudinal edge of the front face a distance L3 from a forward portion of the front face, forming a step in the front face at said top longitudinal edge, and extending lengthwise of said bumper beam;

a compressible, energy absorbing top foam material extending lengthwise of said bumper beam, ~~and a bumper fascia covering said foam material;~~ said foam material having a first portion received in said depressed portion and a second portion protruding ~~protruded~~ forwardly a distance L2 from said forward portion of said front face of said bumper beam, wherein the entire ~~such that~~ said second portion is compressible within ~~compressed in~~ said depressed portion upon impact receipt of a collision and wherein said at least one rearwardly depressed portion has a vertical dimension 30 to 80% of the vertical dimension of said bumper beam; and

a bumper fascia covering said foam material ~~impact.~~

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) A bumper ~~structure~~ as claimed in claim 1, further comprising an energy absorbing body provided at a front end of said second portion of said foam material and having a vertical dimension length greater than the a vertical dimension length of said depressed portion.

5. (Currently Amended) A bumper ~~structure~~ as claimed in claim 1, wherein said foam material has a width length in the front to rear direction of L1 and said second portion of said foam material has a width length in the front to rear direction of L2, and wherein the ratio L2/L1 is in the range of 0.4 to 0.9.

6. (Currently Amended) A bumper ~~structure~~ as claimed in claim 1, further comprising an energy absorbing body, separate from said top foam material and provided on a portion of said front face other than said depressed portion.

7. (Currently Amended) A bumper ~~structure~~ as claimed in claim 6, wherein said foam material has a width length in the front to rear direction of L1, said second portion of said foam material has a width length in the front to rear direction of L2 and said energy absorbing body has a thickness in the front to rear direction of L4, and wherein the ratio (L2-L4)/L1 is in the range of 0.4 to 0.9.

8. (Currently Amended) A bumper ~~structure~~ as claimed in claim 1, wherein said foam material is a polyolefin-based resin foam.

9. (Currently Amended) A bumper ~~structure~~ as claimed in claim 1, wherein said foam material is a polypropylene-based resin foam having an apparent density of 0.11 to 0.025 g/cm³.

10. (New) A bumper as claimed in claim 1 wherein said foam material is a molding of polypropylene-based resin beads.

11. (New) A bumper as claimed in claim 1 wherein said molding has a density of 0.09 to 0.25 g/cm³.

12. (New) A bumper as claimed in claim 1 wherein said bumper beam further has a bottom edge depressed portion extending rearwardly from the bottom longitudinal edge of the front face a distance L3 from the forward portion of the front face, forming a step in the front face at said bottom longitudinal edge, and extending lengthwise of said bumper beam; and further comprising:

a compressible, energy absorbing bottom foam material extending lengthwise of said bumper beam, said bottom foam material having a first portion received in said bottom edge depressed portion and a second portion protruding forwardly a distance L2 from said forward portion of from said front face of said bumper beam, wherein the entire said second portion of said bottom foam material is compressible within said bottom edge depressed portion upon impact of a collision and wherein said top edge depressed portion and said bottom edge depressed portion together have a vertical dimension 30 to 80% of the vertical dimension of said bumper beam.

13. (New) A bumper as claimed in claim 1 wherein said foam material has a width in the front to rear direction of L1 and wherein L2 is 60-70% of L1.

14. (New) A bumper as claimed in claim 12 wherein said top foam material and said bottom foam material each have a width in the front to rear direction of L1 and wherein L2 is 60-70% of L1.

15. (New) A bumper as claimed in claim 1 wherein said foam material has a front to rear width L1 and top and bottom planar surfaces, in parallel with each other and coextensive with L1.

16. (New) A bumper as claimed in claim 12 wherein each of said top foam material and said bottom foam material has a width in the front to rear direction of L1 and top and bottom planar surfaces in parallel with each other and coextensive with L1.